

St Paul Catholic Church

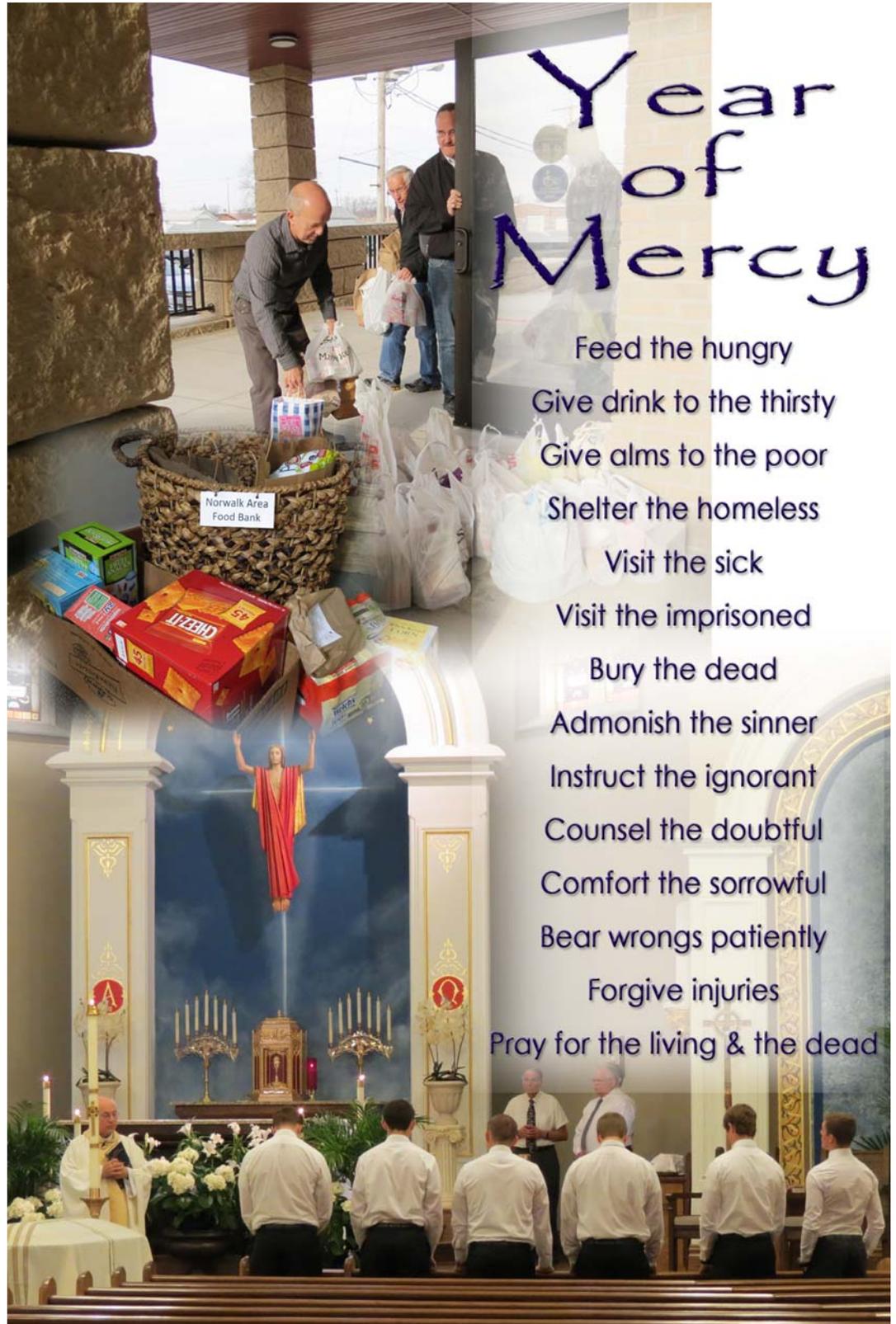
P A R I S H N E W S L E T T E R

January 2016



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Year of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Give alms to the poor
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead
- Admonish the sinner
- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive injuries
- Pray for the living & the dead

Preserving Our Legacy



If Yogi Berra were still around, I would tell him I know exactly what he meant when he said “it was *dejà vu* all over again.”

Those of you who have long memories may recall that one of the repairs that we said we were going to do in the process of our church refurbishment in 2013-14 was to repair the stained glass windows behind the reredos in the sanctuary. We had discovered that over the last 100 years, the three sections of which they are composed had bowed, some in and some out, so that there was in some places actually a gap of a quarter inch for the rain and snow to come in. As an immediate fix, Marv Ott, to whom we owe many thanks, caulked those big gaps, but that was not a sustainable long-term solution; they would need to be repaired.

As the various projects played out in that first phase, this early one has now become almost the final one, but it is going to be done now, at the turn of the year, in time for Easter, though if anything goes wrong it could be a little close. (That’s the *dejà vu* part!)

On Feb 1 and 2 (or if necessary, already on Jan 28 and 29) scaffolding will be erected in the rear of the sanctuary to give access to these windows. Our men will be working together with Seaway Scaffold, once again saving us considerable money on the contract. Then Mr. Ben Kendall, who did such a beautiful job with the huge stained glass window in the façade, working yet again with our own men, will remove the pieces of glass that need to be repaired and work on them in his studio. He said the entire project (which includes also repairs to the stained glass windows in the servers’ and priests’ sacristies), will take 4-5 weeks. So everything



should be done and put back in place and the scaffolding down by Easter.

In the meantime, we ask your patience regarding the fact that the sanctuary will have this scaffolding in place during this time – it’s unavoidable. Kind of like the orange barrels that nobody is thrilled to see on the highways, we realize that it’s something we just have to put up with in the short-term in order to have in the long term, a much better situation. During this time of the year we have no weddings or first communions or graduations or other major celebrations to spoil so clearly now is the time that it must be done.

To continue the highway analogy, we know that this will require some lane changes, so to speak – once the scaffolding is actually up and we can see how far it extends on both sides of the reredos, we will work out new temporary procedures for where our servers sit and where our Eucharistic Ministers will stand and how they will approach the altar for their ministry, and get those new instructions to you. So we hope you will have a little patience with that, too. I kept telling myself two years ago, “A hundred years from now nobody is going to even remember all these little hiccups and bunny hops on the way; they’ll just say that the church was last refurbished in 2014.” It’s only we who are in the thick of it who are aware of the bumps and knocks.

I’m repeating that to myself again now. It’s *dejà vu* all over again...!

Msgr. Ken



Lenten Opportunities 2016

Men's Gospel Study Breakfast

Saturday, February 20 @ 8:00 am

The Men's Gospel Study extends an invitation to all men of the parish to join them on Saturday mornings throughout Lent for prayer and reflection on the gospel readings. A special breakfast will be served on Saturday, February 20. An RSVP to Joe Missler @ 419-706-5490 for the February 20th study is appreciated.

Men's Lenten Day of Reflection

Saturday, March 5th @ 7:00 am – 1:00 pm

Sts. Peter and Paul, Sandusky

Guest Speaker: Greg Schlueter, CEO and founder of Mass Impact

Evening Prayer

Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm throughout Lent and Easter, February 17 – May 11

The Rosary will be prayed in the Adoration Chapel following Evening Prayer during Lent.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays of Lent @ 7:00 pm

Living Stations of the Cross on March 24 @ 10:00 am (NCS Elementary)

Daily Devotionals

Doorway to Mercy, by Ann Naffziger

Living Faith, Creative Communications

Best Lent Ever, Dynamic Catholic emails

(www.DynamicCatholic.com/bestlentever)

"Mercy: The Heart of Faith, The Reason for Hope"

Six-session DVD program, featuring spiritual leader Fr. Dan Crosby

Facilitated by Marian Bermudez

Thursday evenings, February 11 – March 17

6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Juan Diego Room

OR

Friday mornings, February 12 – March 18

11:00 am – 1:00 pm in the Gathering Space

("Lenten Lunch and Learn")

Please call the parish office to register.

Coffee and Conversation

Pat Krause will lead the group in a discussion on Mercy.

Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am in the Juan Diego Room

Reconciliation

Wednesdays, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, Saturdays, 3:30 - 4:00 pm

Sundays, 10:15 - 10:45 am

24 Hours for the Lord at St. Mary's, Norwalk: Reconciliation and Adoration

Friday, March 4, 5:00 pm - 12:00 am and Saturday, March 5, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Lights On: Wednesdays, March 9, 16 and 23, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Day of Grace: Monday, March 21, 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Parish Family BLESSINGS

New Members:

Jay & Aimee Cotton
Children, Alex & Claire

Michael & Linda Goostree

Mary Ann Kaple
Children, Jack & Anna

Mabel Opper

Eric & Heather Smith
Son, Liam

Brad Wise

Duncan & Linda Wooster

Baptisms:

Gracie Anne, Tyson Gregory
& Theo Angelo, Children of
Juan & Stephanie Arbelaez

Greta June, Daughter of
Ben & Leslie Kline

Kevin Lee, Son of
Brian & Linnea Lodermeier

Norah Grey, Daughter of
Chad & Dylana Myers

Aubrey Nicole, Daughter of
Troy & Stacy Stein

Deaths:

Homer Bungard

Betty Cox

William Kocher

Marie McGuckin

Nancy McGue

Molly Minor

Irene Newberger

Howard Riley

Marguerite Riley

Gladys Ringholz

David Schick

Alice Sommers

Mark Straka

Larry Strimpfel

John Tien



Huron County Right to Life Annual March



PSR Christmas Play



Ecumenical Festival of Hymns



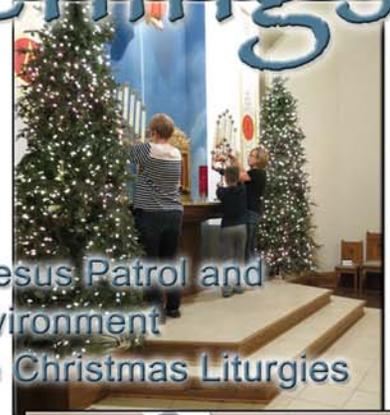
Parish Happenings



Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration



Members of our Jesus Patrol and Art and Environment Teams prepare for the Christmas Liturgies



AfterMass Game Night!

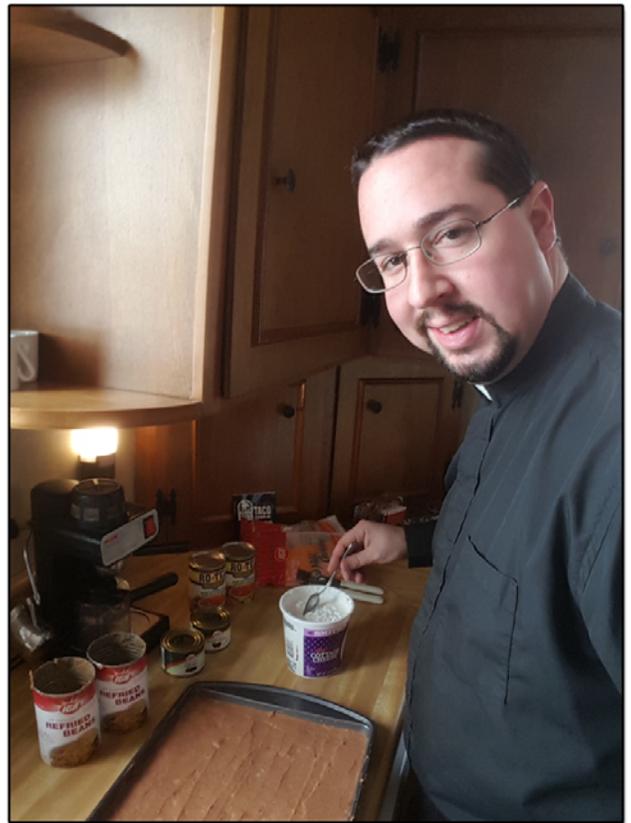


Polar Express Fun!

Food, Faith & Fellowship

WITH FR. PAUL

It's that time of year again! The month of February brings along the yearly tradition of celebrating two events. (Coincidentally, neither of these is a Holy Day of Obligation!) These events are Superbowl Sunday, on February 7th, and Ash Wednesday on February 10th. As Catholics, we celebrate Ash Wednesday to kick off the penitential season of Lent, focusing on the events leading up to the Passion and Death of our Lord. It is also a tradition in the Catholic Church to focus in three areas in our lives – to increase our prayer, to fast, and to give alms to the poor. We also abstain from meat on the days of Ash Wednesday and the Fridays during Lent. It is a time to condition ourselves spiritually and to recognize the things in our lives that we can do without, as opposed to the things that we depend on for our sustenance. For some people, giving up a particular food such as meat, would be a great challenge. Other ideas include refraining from alcoholic beverages, pop, TV, video games and even social media! It might be an opportunity for one to change up their routine for the better, and to break bad habits. It is up to each person to decide what will help them the most during this time of year – to give up something for a mere forty days in an attempt to grow closer to the Lord.



Since, as humans, we need our physical sustenance, I was able to whip up a nice Mexican dip that would go along with the aforementioned two events. You could bring this with you to your Superbowl party and impress your friends. This dip does not contain any meat, so you could also serve this dish on a Friday during Lent.

In a rectangular pan (with raised edges), spread about two cans of refried beans. Then mix one package of taco seasoning with a large container of cottage cheese and spread it on top. Then add two cans of Rotel diced tomatoes with peppers, one can of sliced black olives, and one bottle of yellow banana peppers. (Drain juice before adding) Last of all, sprinkle a bag or two of mild cheddar cheese on top. This dish can be eaten with flour tortilla chips for all to enjoy!

Have a blessed Lent with your families!

~ Fr. Paul

A NEW PROCESSIONAL CROSS

By Valerie French

The stately old cross was resting on the table in the Mother Teresa meeting room on the night of our Parish Council meeting. It was upright and leaning against the wall. It had a dowel rod coming out of the bottom, as apparently it was at one time connected to another structure.

We were looking for a cross. To be very specific, we were looking for a light-weight cross that we could adapt for our younger students to use as a processional cross. The current one, while very beautiful, is a tad heavy for our younger students. They cannot handle it easily and sometimes they have trouble getting it into the base. The elementary students were given the task to make a cross that they could carry and handle in a better manner.

So the stately old cross seemed to be just what we were looking for. It was covered in white paint and had no base. Could we have it and then would we be able to adapt it for our needs?

The students at Norwalk Catholic School took the cross and went to work sanding off the white paint. Each student was given an opportunity to sand with a small square of sand paper. After the use of much elbow grease, the paint came off. The students toiled and were happy to do it. This was an important job and they wanted to finish the cross in time to give it back to the church for the new year.

But the stately old cross did not have a corpus. What shall we do for the crucified body of Christ? How could we make it? The SPH art teacher mentioned that one of her students, Sam, was exploring the art of carving. Perhaps Sam could make Christ for us. Sam came and took a tracing of the stately old cross. He went to work carving the body of Christ with some help from his uncle.

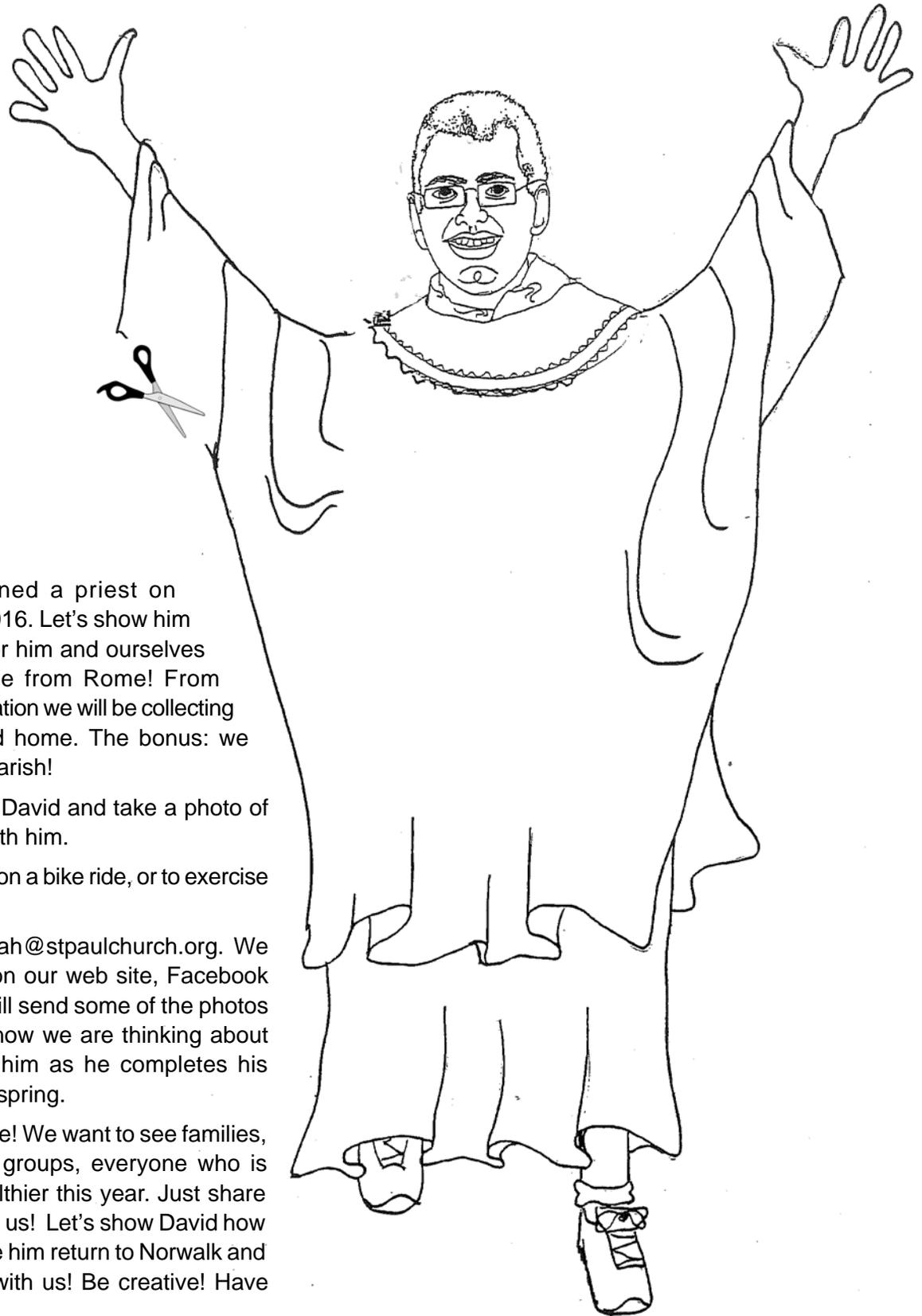


But what about a base? The finished cross would need a resting place. The base had to be just the right height, it needed to be attractive and it needed to match the cross. My husband volunteered to make the base. He conferred with Msgr. Ken, took measurements and discussed finishes and went to work in his wood shop building a new base.

The stately old cross received a new finish, holds the newly created body of Christ and has a new base. The beautiful new processional cross will be blessed at a school Mass. The cross had come home, for it is believed this cross was originally a part of the altar piece of this same church before the church was renovated in the 1970's. The cross had been taken care of by a parishioner, "Red." After Red died, his wife, Carol, gave the cross back to the church as she was cleaning out and preparing to move closer to her daughter. Carol wanted the church to use the cross again in some way.

The stately old cross is home again with a new purpose. The cross has been loved by many and now, carried in the hands of our children, the cross will lead us into the celebration of the Mass, where over and over again Christ will give His love for us.

Let's Walk Deacon David Kidd HOME FROM ROME!



David will be ordained a priest on Saturday, June 25, 2016. Let's show him how much we care for him and ourselves by walking him home from Rome! From January until his ordination we will be collecting "miles" to walk David home. The bonus: we become a healthier parish!

Cut out this image of David and take a photo of yourself exercising with him.

Take David on a walk, on a bike ride, or to exercise class.

Send your photo to lisah@stpaulchurch.org. We will post your photo on our web site, Facebook page and of course will send some of the photos to David to let him know we are thinking about him and praying for him as he completes his studies in Rome this spring.

Anyone can participate! We want to see families, individuals, couples, groups, everyone who is trying to become healthier this year. Just share your experiences with us! Let's show David how excited we are to have him return to Norwalk and for him to celebrate with us! Be creative! Have fun!

St. Paul Catholic Church

91 E. Main St
Norwalk, OH 44857

Phone: 419-668-6044

Fax: 419-663-5770

E-mail: lisah@stpaulchurch.org

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



WAYS TO SHOW MERCY:

Resist sarcasm; it is the antithesis of mercy: "Set, O Lord, a guard over my mouth; keep watch, O Lord, at the door of my lips!" (Psalm 141:3)

Pare down possessions; share your things with the needy.

Call someone whom you know is lonely, even if you understand why they're lonely. Especially if you do.

Learn to say this prayer: "Dear Lord, bless (annoying person's name) and have mercy on me!"

Be generous enough to allow someone to help you; people need to feel needed.

Take time in prayer to contemplate the good qualities of someone who is difficult for you. Do the same for each member of your family.

Taken from *56 Ways to be Merciful During the jubilee Year of Mercy, Aleteia*, December 7, 2015 (www.aleteia.org).